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UNCLAS HARARE 000513

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/S  
AF/PDPA FOR DALTON, MITCHELL AND SIMS  
NSC FOR JENDAYI FRAZER  
LONDON FOR GURNEY  
PARIS FOR NEARY  
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ZBC SEES LINK BETWEEN SANCTIONS AGAINST ZIMBABWEAN  
LEADERSHIP AND U.S. POLICY ON IRAQ

[11](#). THE ZIMBABWE BROADCASTING CORPORATION'S (ZBC) PRIME-TIME EVENING NEWS PROGRAM ON MARCH 12 REPORTED THAT NEWLY IMPOSED U.S. FINANCIAL SANCTIONS AGAINST ZIMBABWEAN LEADERSHIP ARE PART OF A POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION WITH GREAT BRITAIN TO ENSURE CONTINUED UK SUPPORT FOR U.S. POLICY ON IRAQ. REALLY, THEY DID.

[12](#). IN ITS MAIN STORY, ZBC'S 8PM NEWS PROGRAM DEDICATED ABOUT 10 MINUTES TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S EXECUTIVE ORDER OF MARCH 6. WILLIAM NHARA, ONE OF ZBC'S FAVORED POLITICAL ANALYSTS, OFFERED A 4-MINUTE COMMENTARY ON THE SANCTIONS. HIS CENTRAL THESIS WAS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT LED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS AS A CONDITION FOR CONTINUED BRITISH SUPPORT OF U.S. POLICY ON IRAQ. NHARA POINTED TO THE TIMING OF THE MARCH 6 EXECUTIVE ORDER (PRESUMABLY AS THE U.S. IS PREPARING FOR WAR WITH IRAQ), GROWING ANTI-WAR PUBLIC OPINION IN THE U.K., AND RECENT DIPLOMATIC "TRIUMPHS" FOR ZIMBABWE (SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NIGERIA, PARTICIPATION AT THE FRENCH-AFRICA SUMMIT, SUPPORT FROM THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT) AS EVIDENCE THAT THE SANCTIONS WERE INSTITUTED AS A POLITICAL TRADE FOR CONTINUED BRITISH SUPPORT OF U.S. POLICY ON IRAQ.

SULLIVAN